

COMMENTS ON THE COPY CATALOGING ASSIGNMENT – WHEW!

Basically, the assignment went well. The only thing that didn't go well was the amount of time it took me to go through 55 unique MARC records – Yikes! – I will be rethinking this assignment in the future.

I printed out each of your assignments and made notes on them as I was not able to be glued to the screen for the duration. Since my remarks are on your printed papers, I will make some of your individual remarks to the general audience.

1. I found the records from Access Philadelphia to be quite incomplete. I will recommend using that source only as a last resort in the future. If the records you find are incomplete (no subject headings, for example) by all means look at another source. Copy cataloging is not one-stop shopping. If your catalog records are incomplete, the chances are higher that you will not get your library holdings to the students. Almost always, the more information in the MARC record, the more likely student is to find your treasure. Keep in mind that students are used to keyword searching because everything starts with Google.
2. The best records I found were from Amicus and Library of Congress – both are the national libraries of Canada and the U. S., respectively, and so it stands to reason that their records would be very complete and they would have the most listings. MOBIUS was a distant third for my finding good records.
3. Inconsistencies in the record: Almost everyone used the \$ as the demarcation for subfields. Sometimes, there was inconsistency in the labeling of the subfields.
 - a. Two examples
 - i. 650 \$a African Americans |v Fiction – here both “\$” and “|” were used as demarcations for the subfields
 - ii. 650 \$a Fugitive slaves |v Fiction
4. There were some who were confused by the use of 0 and 1 after the MARC tag and thought these were the demarcation for the subfield. Actually these are indicators that we are not going to worry about. They are not subfields.
 - a. Example
 - i. 650_0 \$a Sustainable buildings \$x Design and construction – the 0 in this case indicates that this is a Library of Congress subject heading. The \$a is where the subfield begins.
 - b. Example
 - i. 650_1 \$a Vampires \$v Fiction – the “1” in this case indicates that this subject heading is the primary subject for this book – in this case *Breaking Dawn*.

5. 082/092 – Some of you didn't have an 082 (Dewey) field but rather an 092 – which is a locally produced number.
 - a. The thing to keep in mind is that it would be preferable to have a Dewey number that is not at odds with other libraries in your district that hold the same item.
 - b. Fiction
 - i. Most fiction is given an 800 number in MARC records. You will need to decide if you will keep them in the 800s or use FIC as your category. Most schools keep current reading in FIC and "literature" in the 800s.
6. There was a lot of confusion about the second subfield in the 082 tag which often looked like |222 – the "|" is a demarcation for the edition number – the "|" is the same thing as the "\$" that was on your template – i.e. the demarcation for the subfield 2. The number after \$2 or |2 is the edition number.
7. 100 – The author main entry wasn't a problem for most of you. A lot of records didn't have the author dates in the \$d subfield which is too bad. If that information is available, by all means include it.
 - a. One example:
 - i. \$a Balliet, Blue
 - ii. \$d 1955-
8. 245 – Title and responsibility tag – you noticed that the author's name was inverted in the 100 tag (last, first) and in the 245 field it is in normal order (first last) in the \$c subfield. This subfield is also where you will find additional information about others who contributed to the book, such as the illustrator.
 - a. One example:
 - i. \$c by Blue Balliet ; illustrated by Brett Helquist.
9. 250 – sometimes the year of the edition is left blank in the MARC record. Since you are cataloging a book that you have in hand, be sure to not leave the year blank.
 - a. \$a
10. 300 – the \$a sometimes is not filled in when the MARC record was made. Since you are cataloging a book that you have in hand, be sure to not leave the pagination blank.
 - a. \$a 523 p.; not \$a p.
11. 505 – Almost no one had books that had individual stories in them by different authors. This is a classic example of where the information will be lost to the students if they are not individually listed in the MARC record. The 505 is field where you would list collected works in one volume, e.g.

individual short story titles.

12. 650 – This is one of the most important tags because it is the subject tag.
 - a. Some of you listed the subjects for the book, but didn't list \$v Fiction after each tag.
 - i. \$a Cats
 - ii. \$a Dogs
 - iii. \$a Mummies – each of these should have had the subfield with each subject heading: \$v Fiction
 - b. Another example from *Pillars of the Earth* - there should have been a fiction subfield
 - i. \$a Medieval times \$v Fiction
 - ii. \$a Church architecture \$v Fiction
 - c. There were several examples of MARC records without any 650 fields. Even if the record you copied does not have subject fields, you ought to add them. One example:
 - i. *It's Not About the Bike*, a book about Lance Armstrong had no 650 field indicating that the book was about a cyclist or that he had cancer. A couple of appropriate fields would have been:
 1. 650 \$a Cyclist \$z United States \$v Biography
 2. 650 \$a Cancer \$x Patients \$z United States \$v Biography
13. 700 – The name of any other persons who contributed to a book – such as a co-author or an illustrator. Be sure that the other person responsible for the book gets the credit they deserve.
14. 856 \$u – almost no one included Web URLs in their records. If there is additional information available about the item on the Web, this is where you would include it.